

**BUSINESS REPORT**

**MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
63rd LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION**

**HOUSE JOINT APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

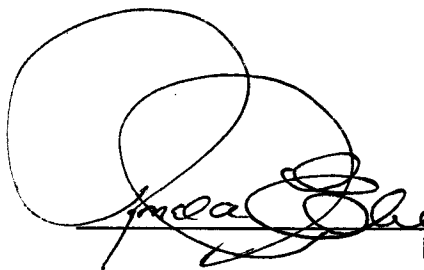
**Date:** Tuesday, January 22, 2013  
**Place:** Capitol

**Time:** 8:00 AM  
**Room:** 102

**BILLS and RESOLUTIONS HEARD:** None

**EXECUTIVE ACTION TAKEN:** None

**Comments:** Senior Long Term Care Public Testimony

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ron Ehli', is written over a horizontal line.

REP. Ron Ehli, Chair

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
**Roll Call**  
**HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES JOINT SUBCOMMITTEE**

DATE: 1/22/13

<u>NAME</u>	<u>PRESENT</u>	<u>ABSENT/ EXCUSED</u>
SEN. JASON PRIEST, VICE CHAIR		✓
SEN. MARY CAFERRO	✓	
REP. DAVE HAGSTROM	✓	
REP. PAT NOONAN	✓	
SEN. ROGER WEBB	✓	
REP. RON EHLLI, CHAIR	✓	

**MONTANA House of Representatives  
Visitors Register**

**HOUSE JOINT APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN  
SERVICES COMMITTEE**

**Tuesday, January 22, 2013**

**Sponsor: No Bills to be Heard**

**PLEASE PRINT**

Name	Representing	Support	Oppose	Info
KEITH WALLACE	ADULT RESOURCE ALLIANCE <sup>YELLOWSTONE COUNTY</sup>	X		
RICHARD A. KHOSE SR	ADULT RESOURCE ALLIANCE <sup>LAUREL SENIOR CENTER</sup>	X		
Edie Lind	ADULT Resource Alliance of Yellowstone County	X		
Terry Miron	MEA - MFT	X		
James Driggers	SLTC			X
Richard Norini	SLTC			X
Charles Olegnes	Area IV Agency on Aging	X		
Karen Greer	Area II Agency on Aging	X		
Denise Armstrong	Big Sky Senior Services	X		
Edwene Lutter	Area IV Agency on Aging	X		
Cathy Blumenthal	MHA	X		
DAN ANTONIETTI	✓ VFW	✓		
Joe Briggs	CASCADE County Commission	X		
Kent Burgess	St. John's Lutheran Ministries	X		
Brian Kohke	Missoula Aging Services	X		
Ed Croucher	VFW	X		
Charles Clifferd	AARP Montana	✓		
Jim Higgins	Natl Guard Association	X		
Joel Peden	MT Ind Living Centers	X		
Janet Allmeier	Area X	X		
Charlie Briggs	Easter Seals - Goodwill	X		
JACQUIE HERT	SEIU HELMUTACHIE PISON	X		

Please leave prepared testimony with Secretary. Witness Statement forms are available if you care to submit written testimony.

Kathryn Beaty  
BANKS & SONS

Valley View Estates Health Care Center  
Benefits Senior Services

X

X



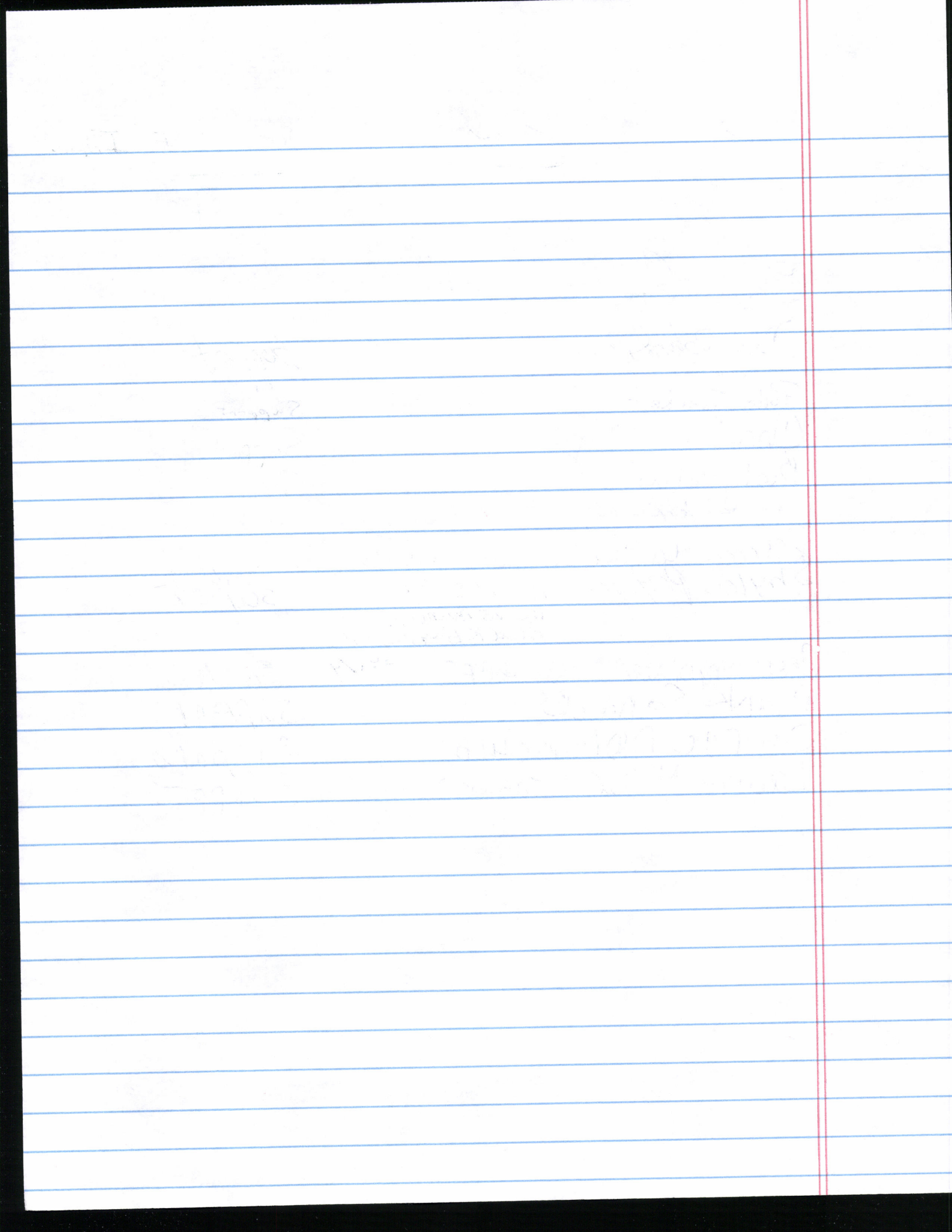
# Sign In

		Support	Oppose	Info
Brian Niso	- Eagle Cliff Healthcare Community	X		
Bill Powell	Rocky Mountain Healthcare	X		
Erin McGowan Finckham	Area Agencies on Aging	X		
John Peskey	Medicaid Waiver	X		
Bill Woods	CONSUMER DIRECT	X		
Jenna Jankowski	AARP advocate			
Carrie Okken	Cedar Wood Healthcare	X		
Margaret Schwend	" " " "	X		
Austin Bowassa	Eagle Cliff	X		
Michele Kruckenberg	Rocky Mountain Care Cent	X		
Kristina Miller	Rocky Mountain Care Cent	X		
Rebecca Erbe	Eagle Cliff Healthcare Comm	X		
Maura Nagels	Copper Ridge / Bull	X		
Todd Barlock	Eagle Cliff Healthcare	X		
Sheila Thompson	Opportunity Resources	X		
<del>Janet McCullough</del>	ORI			
<del>John Stuber</del>	Summit ILC	X		
Mike Wayne	Summit ILC	X		
Sheila James	Consumer	X		
Glen Drees				
Becky Cottrell				
Jennifer Bratt				
Lerie Hepburn	Opportunity Resources	X		
Bonnie Kemp	Consumer	X		
John Lee	CNC			
Will Frinzel	Opportunity Resources			
Wanda Lange		X		

2nd



<u>NAME</u>	<u>Group</u>	<u>Support / Oppose / INFO.</u>
Kelly Lynch Connor Casillas	self	support
Brian <del>Wright</del> Don Johnson	cpa	AA Support
Polly Becker		Support
Christine Stalling		Support
Becky Cottrell		Support
Sandra Jenkowski		support
Rebecca Lynette Lawrence	lifeline	support
Shyla Patera	NCILS EXPRESS 1120 25 AVENUE BLACK EAGLE, MT 59404	SUPPOT
Crist Fleming Blaxom	MCBS	S/Info.
Mark Sanders		SUPPORT
George Northcutt		Support
Laurie Miller	Easter Seals	Support



To the Gov. State Senators and Committee Members:

I am here to express my concerns about funding cuts or cutbacks being made to the **Home and Community-Base Service Programs**. Any cuts would be detrimental not only to myself, but to more than **150,000** Montanans living with a disability.

It has only been three years since my accident. After 40 days in coma, I woke up with severe burns to 23% of my body as well as severe trauma to the head. I had to learn how to walk, talk, cook, go shopping, pay my bills, all the tasks people do in their everyday living. If it were not for the **Home and Community-Base Service programs**, I probably would have wound up in an institution or nursing facility, destroying my self-esteem and the chance to make progress toward my recovery.

**Home and Community-Base Services** approached me and placed me on the waiver program. They provided expert services that took care of my needs. The **Community Medical Bridges**, a brain injury school, taught me to brush my teeth, walk like a normal person, personal hygiene - the things we all take for granted. The recovery process has been long and hard. Those services not only allowed me to re-establish my independence in my own home, but also to extend my knowledge and experience to others with disabilities.

During my recovery, I realize there were more Montanans struggling with the same issues. Thus, I started a support group to help others through their struggles in everyday life. **SummitIndependent Living** has provided me with opportunities to help others in my community. I became a volunteer at the **CommunityMedical Center, Bridges**, advocating for others with brain injuries. I also became a board member with the **BrainInjury Alliance**. Everyday I help somebody else. Even if it is just a little, it provides me with gratification and fulfillment knowing I aided others who have gone through similar situations.

The number of Montanans that actually suffer a brain injury per day is **33**. These people are like my own family members. We share a common thread, a common struggle. The **Home and Community-Base Service** is far more economical than other assisted living alternatives such as nursing homes. **HCBS** has the potential to save taxpayers money. If I had gone to a nursing home, I would be spending approximately **\$6000**, as opposed to the **\$1250I** spend now- a huge difference for our taxpayers. Disabled Montanans are still capable of voting or not voting. We have voices to be heard. As a disability group, we urge you not to make any cutbacks. Rather, encourage more people to be independent and not to rely on the government. Keep them out of nursing homes. I do not know if you have a loved one or a family member in a nursing home, but it is not a very good quality-of-life. How would you like to be stuck staring out a window at the mountains or sitting inside and unable to hear the streams or wind blowing in the trees? Please help us keep our independence and keep our homes.

Sincerely yours.

Advocate for the disabled  
Mr. Don Johnston



January 18, 2013

Dear Representative and/or Committee Member,

I am writing to you regarding the need to evaluate and review the current hourly wage for personal care attendants under the Montana State Personal Assistance Services Program. Specifically, we know that the 2010 Northwest Job Gap Study indicated that a livable wage in Montana is \$13.54 an hour for a single adult and \$18.98 for a single adult with a child.<sup>i</sup>

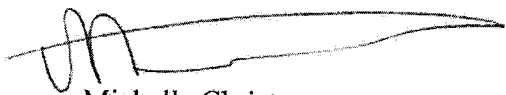
In Montana, most Personal Care Attendants make \$10.00 or less per hour. The mean wage in Montana for a personal care attendant in 2010 was \$9.61 per hour.<sup>ii</sup> Over the period of 2001 to 2011, national median wages for PCAs increased by 22% or, an average of 2.2% per year, from \$7.76 to \$9.49. However, after adjusting for inflation, real wages for these aides *decreased by more than 4%*. This, in an economy that has experienced skyrocketing living expenses such as insurance, groceries, etc. These workers are a critical component in our ability to provide cares in the community for consumers who would otherwise reside in a nursing home setting.

I believe that this subpar pay rate greatly contributes to the turnover rate commonly experienced in this industry. A March 2011 article in the Journal of Disability Studies examined the relation between high worker turnover in long term care and government wage subsidy policies. The article concludes that it is beneficial for "...the government to reduce turnover through wage subsidization in this sector."<sup>iii</sup>

I am asking for your support during this legislative session. As you tackle the many issues facing our state this session, please consider those who provide personal care services designed to keep our friends and neighbors at home where it is less costly for the government, and allows them to retain their independence.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this important issue. Should you have any questions or, if I can be of assistance to you, please feel free to contact me at 406-752-3697.

Sincerely,



Michelle Christensen  
6 Yellowstone Street  
Kalispell, MT 59901

<sup>i</sup> [http://nwfco.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/12/2010-1209\\_2010-Job-Gap.pdf](http://nwfco.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/12/2010-1209_2010-Job-Gap.pdf)

<sup>ii</sup> [http://www.pascenter.org/pca\\_wages/wage\\_table2.php](http://www.pascenter.org/pca_wages/wage_table2.php)

<sup>iii</sup> doi: 10.1177/1044207310389176 Journal of Disability Policy Studies March 2011 vol. 21 no. 4 195-209